

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. General headquarters of the Coastal Defense Brigade is located in a building near the old castle in the city of Durres.¹ [REDACTED] Command 25X1 jurisdiction of the Brigade extends from Sengjin in the north to Sarande in the south. The Brigade consists of marine, infantry, engineer, anti-aircraft, artillery and signal units. There are two schools attached to this Brigade and located on Rruga Currilajvet [REDACTED] in the northwest section of Durres. The Brigade also has two regimental infantry schools, one located in Kavaja, and the other in Vlone. There is also an artillery school located in Durres. 25X1

2. The Albanian commander is Colonel Teki KOLONECT.² [REDACTED] 25X1

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In addition to his duties as commanding officer he is a deputy to the Albanian Parliament for the Durres District. However, the actual exercise of command over Brigade operations is in the hands of two unidentified Soviet colonels who are officially attached to the Brigade as technical advisors.

3. The political commissar of the Brigade is Major Khemal Zeneli. [REDACTED] 25X1

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4. The Brigade artillery commander is Millo Osmani (no rank given). [REDACTED]

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. Chief of the Cultural and Propaganda Section is Lieutenant Myslim Mustafa

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6. The munitions depot of the Brigade consists of five large buildings in the northern section of Durres on Rruga Spitalit. The buildings are guarded by naval personnel and a force of Sigurimi guards. A food and clothing depot for the Brigade is located on Rruga Rraahbuell, approximately five kilometers east of Durres. The depot has 10 buildings consisting of a single floor.

7. The deployment and strength of the Brigade units are as follows:³

- a. At Durres there is a naval unit with 600 men, a signal and communication unit with 450 men, and an anti-aircraft unit with 450 men.
- b. At Kavaja there is an infantry regiment with 1,500 men.
- c. At Vlone there is another infantry regiment with 1,500 men.
- d. At Saseno there is a naval artillery regiment with 300 men.
- e. At Sarande there is an artillery unit with 500 men.
- f. At Karaburun there is an artillery battery with 120 men.
- g. At Dishti Palles, a central observation point, there is an artillery battery with 120 men.⁴

8. The Brigade artillery school is located near the Hotel Volga in the vicinity of the port area of Durres. The school was started in 1950. Its commander is Lt. Misto Kita,

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9. The school has approximately 900 students and is divided into three batteries of 300 men each.

- a. The first battery specializes in the following subjects: map reading, telemetry, telephone, radio receiving and transmitting. The commander of the first battery is Lt. Vasil Prifti

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- b. The second battery teaches the use of artillery and mortars. It specializes in 76 mm. cannons and 120 mm. mortars. The battery commander is Lt. Enver Dymishti

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- c. The third battery specializes in 105 mm. and 152 mm. heavy cannons. Its commander is Lt. Hywhiraj (fnu)

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10. The students at the artillery school are armed with  rifles and Russian light machine guns of the DP type. The school is equipped with the following technical equipment: goniometers, stereometers, perimeters, observation instruments, long-range  and Russian binoculars,  and Russian compasses and  telemeters.

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 Comments:

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1. This is probably the 23 Coastal Defense Brigade 

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4. The Dishti Palles location reported here is believed to be Bishti i Palles in the Durres area 

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